



**Commonwealth of Kentucky
Office of the Governor**

June 2, 2008

Dear Fellow State Employee:

Today, I am signing an Executive Order to reinstate the Governor's Employee Advisory Council (GEAC). The Council was originally established by Governor Patton in 2001. The Council offers an opportunity for public employees to communicate through a unified voice to your employer.

The purpose of the Council is:

- to ask state employees to advise and make recommendations to the Governor relating to employee/employer relations.
- to give front line state employees a stronger voice in Frankfort.
- to create a two way communication mechanism between front line state merit employees and the Governor's office.

Under the reinstituted Executive Order, classified employees may voluntarily join the labor organization that was previously elected as their unit's representative. *More information on the employee categories and their representative organizations will be available in the future.*

This Executive Order does not establish collective bargaining and does not require any employee to join an employee organization. The order specifically states: ***"No employee of the merit system shall be required, coerced, or unduly influenced in any manner to join an employee organization."*** In addition, no dues will be deducted from any employee's paycheck without written permission from the employee. Procedures will be established granting representatives of member organizations access to the workplace during reasonable times to discuss membership with employees on non-work time. We will expect both the organizations and the employees to comply with these procedures and respect each other's time and space. Questions or complaints concerning any issues having to do with the GEAC may be directed to GEAC.Hotline@ky.gov

I believe re-instituting the GEAC will insure that all classified state employees will have an additional meaningful voice in how we can all work together to provide even better services to the people of Kentucky. I look forward to working with you through the GEAC to make this happen.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Beshear